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1871

SILVER WEDDING

OF
Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Draper.

JUNE 16, 1871.





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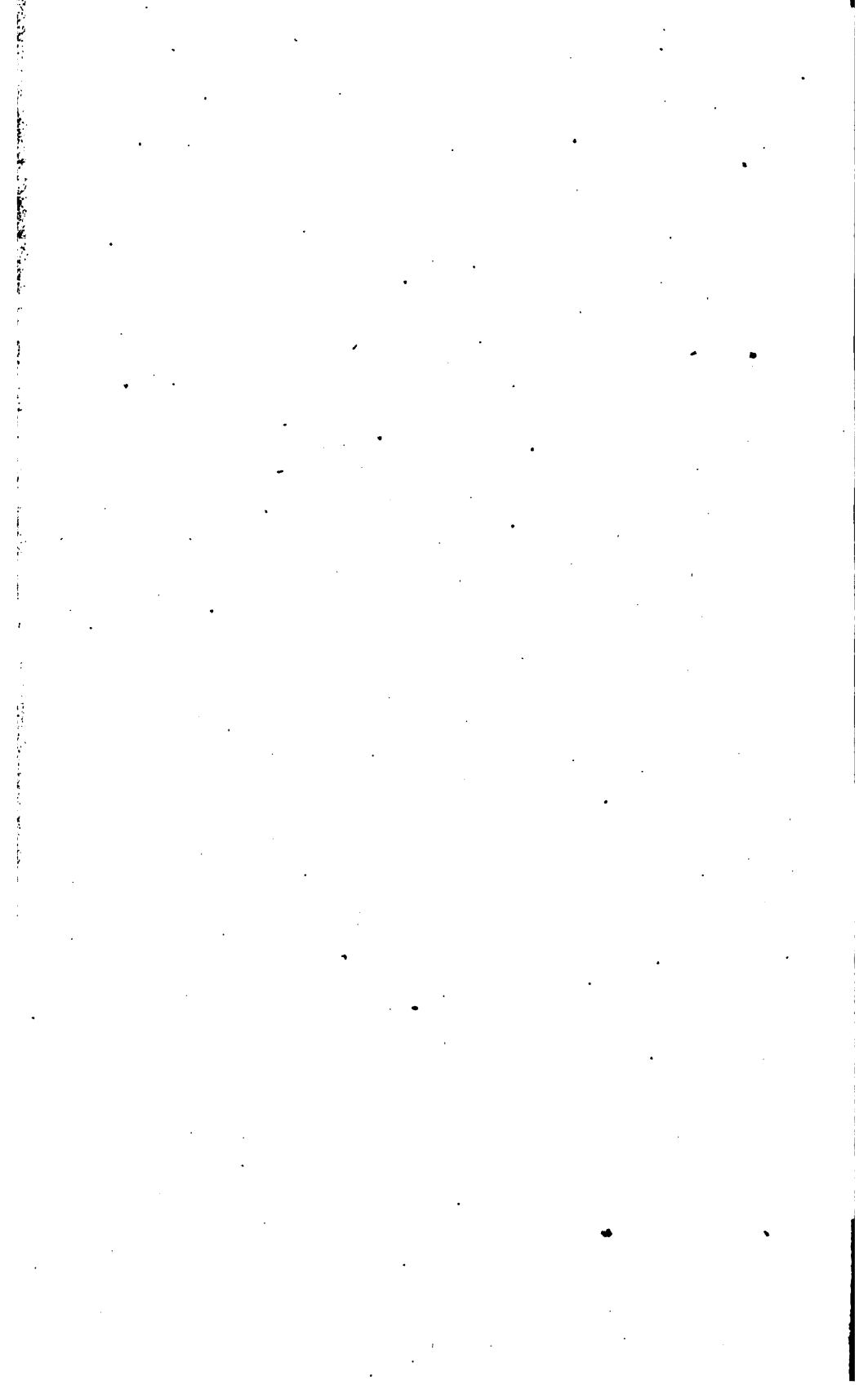
Westford April 13/41

Mr Draper

Dear Sir

I will
write you in a few days
Compliments of
F. P. Draper







Am. Soc. 1897
Am. Soc. 1897

AN

Account of the Silver Wedding

OF

MR. AND MRS. F. P. DRAPER,

AT

WESTFORD, N. Y.,

FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 16, 1871.

INCLUDING THE

**HISTORICAL ESSAYS ON THE DRAPER
AND PRESTON FAMILIES,**

READ ON THE OCCASION;

AND ALSO THE

Poem, Addresses, and other Exercises.



ALBANY:

JOEL MUNSELL.

1871.

81, 991

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1471

THE

Silver Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Draper.

MARRIED: At the residence of the bride's parents, June 16th, 1846, by the Rev. Charles Wadsworth, Fernando P. Draper to Miss Lucy A, daughter of Henry Preston, Esq., all of Westford, Otsego county, N. Y.

The above is the simple announcement of Mr. and Mrs. Draper's marriage as it appeared in the local papers of the day. June 16th, 1871, being the 25th anniversary of this marriage, and the time upon which custom fixes the silver wedding, their many friends and relatives were invited to celebrate the event with them.

The object of this little publication is to give a brief record of that silver wedding.

It has been prepared upon the request of many of the family relatives who desire to have some memento of this happy anniversary, as well as to perpetuate the family histories read on the occasion.

The guests assembled at Mr. Draper's residence between the hours of eight and ten in the evening. People — who had been playmates in years gone by; who in the long ago had participated in each others joys and sorrows; who side by side had grown up to adult years and then separated, came back to the scenes of their childhood, looked into the faces that once were so familiar, and renewed the friendships that were once so constant. The cordial grasping of hands, the beaming eye, and the ready laugh, told, in a manner more positive than language can, that these hours of friendly greetings were indeed most happy ones.

Early in the evening the family and all present were happily surprised by a serenade from the Schenevus Valley Silver Cornet Band which had driven up before the door. They were invited in by Mr. Draper and enjoyed the festivities of the evening with the rest.

At a little after ten o'clock the guests were invited into the north parlor by Mr. Horace Chester of Schenevus who announced the programme and directed the exercises of the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Draper, the bride and groom of a quarter of a century's standing, occupied places at the head of the room on the east side. The guests gathered around filling every available space and listened with the utmost interest and attention for upwards of an hour to the exercises which were there held.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Charles Gillette, pastor of the Congregational Church in Westford, of which Mr. and Mrs. Draper are members.

Mr. Adelbert H. Preston of Westford was introduced and read the following:

HISTORICAL ESSAY ON THE PRESTON FAMILY.¹

In this essay it is proposed to give a brief account of the family from which Mrs. F. P. Draper *née* Preston, came, and at the same time mention all of her father's descendants.

The family is one of English origin.

William Preston was the first of the name known to have settled in this country. He was born in England and emigrated to Windham, Conn., it is supposed, near the middle of the last century. The exact date is not known. His family consisted of nine children of the following names: Eliphalet, Anna, Sally, Esther, Fanny, Harriet, Elizabeth, Harry, and Olive.

Eliphalet Preston, eldest child of William, was born in Connecticut, about the year 1764. It was during his boyhood that the colonies revolted from the mother country, and the ever memorable struggle for American Independence commenced. The boyish patriotism which this struggle inspired in his young heart soon grew into a manly valor; and while he was yet in his teens, he left home and friends, and enlisted in his country's service, where he discharged the duties of a soldier for nearly three years, or until the close of the war. After his return from the army, he married the widow of Elisha Spafford, who was formerly Miss Clorinda Kennedy. He continued his residence in New England until 1788, when he removed with his little family, then consisting of only his wife and one small child, to Watervliet (now Rensselaerville), Albany county, in this state. The beautiful little village of Preston Hollow in Albany county, was named in his honor. This county was, at the time, one of the most thickly settled portions of the state north of New York, and the dreams of a pioneer life which he had had in his New England home were not here realized. He could enjoy the romance which clustered around the settlement of the county, and appreciate the tales of privations and dangers that were told by the earlier settlers, but they did not satisfy his ambitions. He was one of those hardy farmers who was well adapted by nature to turn romance into reality, and consequently after living here barely three years, he pushed his way with his family

¹ This paper, as well as the one on the Draper family, has been slightly changed, and some additions made since it was read.

into the then far interior of the state, and settled in what is now Westford, Otsego county. Then it was Cherry Valley. In 1797, Worcester was formed from a part of Cherry Valley, and in 1808, Westford was erected from a part of Worcester. Thus we see that although never moving from his first settlement or from under his first roof he lived, as strange as it may seem, in three different towns in less than a score of years. When he first came here, the county of Otsego was almost outside of the borders of civilization, and he and his family suffered all the privations and hardships that were the common lot of most early settlers; but as these privations had been assumed as a matter of choice, they were borne manfully and cheerfully. At that time wild beasts were very numerous in the forests. The settlers were much annoyed, and frequently sustained great losses by the ravages of wolves and bears among their domestic animals. Upon one occasion he killed a large black bear while in the act of carrying off a valuable hog which had been attacked in its pen. This was upon the farm now owned by Lewis E. Preston, on which the first settlement was made, and which has remained in the possession of the family ever since. It has been noticed that when the family left Connecticut, there was but one child. This child's name was William. The family was afterwards increased by seven other children. These were Harriet, who married Jared Chase, Henry, Elizabeth who married Levi Chase, Leonard, Sally who married Isaac Bishop, Isaac Fitch, and Clarinda who married Squire Brown. None of them are now living except Mrs. Elizabeth Chase and Mrs. Clarinda Brown. Leonard was in the war of 1812, and being taken sick was discharged, but died near Sacketts Harbor, on his way home. Eliphalet's first wife died in 1833, after which he married the widow Jewell, of Middlefield. He survived her about a year, and died March 21st, 1838, at the age of 74.

Henry Preston was the third child of Eliphalet by his first wife, and the one of most interest to us. He was born Feb. 27th, 1791, in Rensselaerville, which was formed from Watervliet in 1790, and was brought to this place by his parents when but a year old. During his boyhood he rendered them what assistance he could in building up a home in the new settlement. He married Abigail Gibbs of Weathersfield, Conn., April 23d, 1815. Their children were as follows: Lewis Eliphalet; Leonard Fitch; Lucy Almira; Amanda Lucinda; and a son born Feb. 17th, 1829, who died the 1st of March following. Henry and his wife lived together for nearly half a century, most of the time on the old place; but shortly before her death, which occurred Aug. 14th, 1857, they moved to the village. He lived after her a little over a year and a half, and died March 16, 1859.

We will now speak very briefly of the four children of Henry Preston that grew up, and of their respective families.

LEWIS E. was born on Feb. 20, 1816, and has always lived on the old place in Westford. He married Miss Harriet Eliza Brown of Decatur, Sept. 27th, 1843. They have three children whose names and birthdays are as follows: ADELBERT HENRY, March 31st, 1846; MANLY URIAH and AMANDA MARIA, twins, Dec. 30th, 1849.

LEONARD F. was born April 11th, 1819, and lives in Westford. He married Miss Amanda Mason of the same place, Dec. 16th, 1840. They have had two children: JULIUS EUGENE, born June 14th, 1846, and MARY FRANCIS born May 15, 1851.

LUCY A. was born Feb. 20th, 1822. She married Fernando P. Draper of Westford, June 16th, 1846, and has had three children: ELLA ABIGAIL born Aug. 7th, 1850; CLEORA AMANDA born June 8th, 1852, and EMMA ROSE born March 8th, 1858.

AMANDA L. was born April 3d, 1825. She married Horace Webster of Cairo, N. H., Feb. 19th, 1856, and died July 28th, 1862, without leaving any children.

By a recapitulation it will be noticed that there are now living, eleven lineal descendants of Henry Preston; five males and six females.

Of the many virtues of the family as a whole, much might be written. Of the characters of those who are living, delicacy will prevent us making any mention. They in their individual capacity can speak for themselves, not only by their reputations, but by their lives and conduct, and we are not afraid to let them do so. But our duty would not be well done if we failed to say a word of some of the family's dead. Eliphalet, and after him Henry, were looked up to with the highest regard by all. They were among the earliest settlers, had an extensive acquaintance, and they lived honored and respected. Their honesty and uprightness were never questioned. Their trust was in a higher power than man. Fidelity to their maker was ever manifested in their lives, and at their deaths they had the assurance that a heavenly reward was theirs to enjoy. Abigail, the wife of Henry, and Amanda L., her daughter, were women who lived spotless, Christian lives. The sweet disposition, the pleasant countenance, and the amiable character of the mother were all inherited by the daughter in a remarkable degree. The remembrance of the many womanly graces that adorned them is still fresh in the memories of those who knew them.

Let the living and those of the family who shall come after us, try to emulate the example of those who have gone before.

Mr Arthur Chester of Schenevus was called upon and read the following sketch of

THE DRAPER FAMILY.

We have met to-night to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the marriage of Fernando P. Draper to Miss Lucy A. Preston. In connection

with an event of this kind, it is fit that something should be said concerning the families from which these two came. The history of the Preston family has just been given us. It remains for us, therefore, to give an account of the Drapers only. In doing this it will be our object to state all that is known of their early history, giving first a brief review of the ancestral line down to the time of Sylvester Draper, and then bring into the account *all* of his descendants to the present time. This will make the record cover ten generations.

The family is one of Anglican descent. The name can now be traced back to *Thomas Draper*, who lived and died in England. He was born about the year 1600, and lived during the great turmoils that disturbed the government under the reigns of the first two Stuarts — James and Charles — and the protectorate of Oliver Cromwell. It was during the reign of James, that the excitement under the laws relating to uniformity in matters of religion arose. The puritans, to avoid the persecutions which these laws would inflict upon them, and to enjoy in peace that mode of worship they deemed most consonant to the scriptures, emigrated to the new world, and settled at Plymouth in 1620. The spirit of individual independence, and the love of personal liberty and freedom of conscience which was aroused by this great religious excitement, had an amount of influence upon Thomas, which could not fail to make an impression upon his family also.

His son, *James*, following the bent of his father's mind, caught up the feeling which was then carrying so many to the western world. With a number of others who cherished sentiments adverse to the claims of the established church, and the prerogatives of royalty concerning it, he emigrated to this country but a few years after the landing of the pilgrims, and settled in Roxbury, now a part of Boston. The betrothed of James — Miriam Stanfield — who was to become the mother of the Draper family in America, followed him with a heroic love, from the old to the new world, and they were married soon after her arrival. James Draper who was the first of this name in this country, has always been known in the family by way of eminence, as the "Puritan." His remains and those of his wife repose in the cemetery at West Roxbury where their graves are still cared for by Dr. Abijah W. Draper, a descendant of theirs, who lives near the place of their first settlement. The names of the children of this first family, in the order of their births, were: James, John, Moses, Daniel, Jonathan, and Patience.

James, the first of this family of children, and the second of that name, is the one through whom we trace our descent. He was born in Roxbury, about 1660, and married Abigail Whiting, of Dedham. Their children's names were: Nathaniel, William, James, Ebenezer, and Abigail.

Still another of the name of *James*, is counted in our ancestral line — the third in this family of children, who was born about 1690. He married Rachel Aldis of Roxbury, and had by her, one child, John, who died young. His wife died soon after the birth of this child, and he married Abigail Child of Brookline, for a second wife. She was noted throughout the state for her musical talents. The children of this marriage were : James, John, Joshua, Josiah, Rachel, Mary, Abijah, and Samuel. About the year 1730, James removed with his family to Green Lodge in the town of Dedham, where the last two named children were born.

Joshua, the fourth child of James, was the next in our line. He was born in Roxbury, about 1725, and was but a child when the family moved to Dedham. He lived in the latter place until about 1740, when he emigrated with his older brothers, James and John, to Spencer, upwards of 60 miles west of Boston. He married Abigail Fairbanks, of Dedham, whose acquaintance he had made while living at that place, and had by her four children ; Joshua, Sarah, Samuel and Abijah. His wife died Feb. 17th, 1762, after which he married Sarah White, of Brookfield. The children of this marriage were : Asa, Simon, Ira, Joel, and William. He died Oct. 27th, 1792.

Joshua, the second of that name through whom we trace our descent, and the eldest child of his father, was born in Spencer, May 25th, 1749. He married Mary Pratt, Aug. 5th, 1773, and lived for a number of years in Chester, Mass., sixty-five miles west of Spencer. He was one of the Revolutionary patriots who helped to achieve his country's independence, an independence which laid the foundations of the happy form of government and valuable institutions which we now enjoy. Well may we cherish his memory, and the memory of men like him, who by their privations and sufferings in battling against a tyrannical government, have secured to us the freest nation on the face of the globe. The magnetic thrill which was sent through the land by the news of the battles of Concord and Lexington touched his heart, and leaving family and all he had for his country, he was in the ranks almost at the beginning of the struggle. He was at the battle of Bunker Hill and to this day we have in our possession the ancient musket which he carried on that occasion, which remains as a memento of his valor and patriotic deeds. It may be worthy of mention, that for several years prior to his death, his army services were rewarded by a government pension. In a few years after his return from the war, he emigrated with his family from Massachusetts, across the Hudson to New York state and settled in Westford, Otsego county, being the first of the name that located here. When he came to Cherry Valley, as that which is now Westford was then called, the country was an unsettled wilderness, but with his axe and the help of his boys he soon cleared up a quantity of land and built a comfortable home in the wild

forest where he had chosen to locate a habitation. That location was at the foot of the hill in this town which still bears his name, and where until very recently some member of the family has resided. We would like to speak at length of the many trials that were encountered in forming the settlement, but time will not permit. The tales of hardship, distress and suffering which the early settlers were doomed to encounter in a perfect wilderness, from toil, from cold, from famine, from wild beasts and from savages, are recorded on every page of the early history of the county; but no hardships discouraged, no dangers appalled them. They braved all and toiled on. With what success, we who are permitted to enjoy the fruit of their industry, can testify. We will only mention one incident of the hardships which Joshua was forced to undergo. At the time of his settlement here, there was no grist-mill nearer than the village of Cherry Valley, twelve miles distant, and it was upon this mill alone that his family depended for flour and meal from which to make their daily bread. There are those present to-night who have heard him say that he has often gone this entire distance on foot with a bag of corn or wheat on his back, and return with a bag of meal or flour. He was obliged to perform the journey on foot, because at that time the country was a dense forest through which it was impossible for a horse to pass. In a few years, however, the burden of going to mill was lightened by the erection of Dr. Bigelow's mill at Worcester only six miles distant, to which a road had been constructed.

His family was broken up Sept. 1st, 1823, by the death of his wife, after which he lived with his son, Sylvester, on the old homestead, and died there, May 12, 1839. They had eleven children, whose names and birth-days were as follows: Bethuel, Aug. 27th, 1774; Lucy, Jan. 22d, 1776; Hazor E., Sept. 6th, 1777; Rufus, Jan. 28th, 1779; Mary, Sept. 14th, 1780; Abijah, Sept. 3, 1781; Sylvester, May 14, 1783; Joshua, Jan. 18th, 1785; Dexter, Dec. 8th, 1786; Abigail, April 14th, 1790; and Achsah, Feb. 16th, 1792. All these children grew up, except Mary who died in infancy.

Sylvester Draper, the father of the family we now wish to trace, was the seventh child in this family of eleven children. He was born May 14th, 1783, in Chester, Mass., and came to this country, with his parents when but a mere youth. He left the parental roof several years before he had attained his majority, to earn his own livelihood and made his home in Worcester, N. Y. Here on the 22d of Dec., 1808, he married Sukey Bigelow, daughter of Dr. Uriah Bigelow, who was the first of his profession in that locality, and who was widely known as a skillful physician and public spirited citizen. He returned to the old homestead in Westford in 1812, with his family then consisting of a wife and two children, after which nine others were born, and ten of the eleven are now

living. It will be remembered that in Joshua Draper's family there were eleven children, ten of whom lived to be of age. Here in the very next generation we find another family of eleven children with ten grown up. From such interesting and successive facts it may be inferred that the Drapers of these generations were devoted believers in the decimal system, however much this belief may have been eradicated in later times. It may also be worthy of remark, that of the ten living children of the present family, five are boys and five girls — rather old boys and girls, to be sure, but nevertheless they used to call themselves so, and they will allow us the same privilege. These boys and girls are to-day of the following ages: Sylvester Bigelow Draper, 61; Susan Gregory — now Chester — 60; Josiah Harrington Draper, 58, Caroline Maria — now Westcott — 56; Adelia Sophia — now Wilson — 54; Fernando Pratt Draper, 52; Lysander Draper, 50; Marinda — now Robinson — 48; Milton Draper, 42; Maria — now Moore — 39.

Sylvester lived upon the old homestead during the entire remainder of his life, respected and honored by his large circle of acquaintances; an upright Christian man and a worthy member of society. He died May 8th, 1852. His wife Sukey survived him eleven years, and died June 12th, 1863. She was a person of exemplary character, possessing a mild and benevolent disposition, and was loved by all for her intelligence, amiability and inestimable worth.

We will now speak of their ten children in order, and of their respective families in detail. It should be remembered that Sylvester B. and Susan G. were born in Worcester, and all the others in Westford.

SYLVESTER B. was born Feb. 19th, 1810, and has been twice married: first, to Amy Wescott, of Milford, May 4th, 1836, who died Feb. 19th, 1845; and second, to Jane Sloan, of Worcester, June 14th, 1846. On the 8th of March, 1847, while proprietor of the flax mill near Westford he had his arm broken in thirteen places by having it caught in a flax break, necessitating amputation at the shoulder the next day. He removed to Albany in 1855, where he now resides. By his first wife he had three daughters and one son: Olive, Ann Elizabeth, Perlia Marinda, and Orlow Westcott, all born in Westford. OLIVE was born May 25th, 1837, and married Silas H. Walker, of Albany, July 2d, 1863. She now lives in Worcester, N. Y., and is the mother of one daughter: Francis E. born June 4th, 1864, died Sept. 3d, 1865; and three sons: Willie L., born Oct. 26th, 1867; Sylvester D., March 28th, 1869; and Fred. A., June 13th, 1871. ANNE E., was born June 28th, 1839, and married John M. Brightmyer, of Albany, Dec. 13th, 1858, who served during the war of the rebellion in the 43d N. Y. Volunteers. She now lives in Albany and has had two sons and two daughters: Charles M. born July 26th, 1860, died April 25th, 1861; Charles S., born June 18th, 1865, Jennie D., Jan. 8th, 1868, and Perlia, July 8th, 1870.

PERLIA M., was born July 11th, 1842, and lives in Albany. ORLOW W. was born Dec. 29th, 1844, and died Jan. 9th, 1845. By his second wife he had two sons and two daughters: ANDREW SLOAN, born June 21st, 1848; HARLAN PAGE, June 9th, 1851, both born in Westford and now live in Albany; JULIA ISABELLA, born in Westford, July 13th, 1852, and died there March 9th, 1855, and JENNIE, born in Albany, Aug. 30th, 1864, and died there July 16th, 1865.

SUSAN G. was born May 22d, 1811, and married Alden Chester of Maryland, Sept. 5th, 1838, and has resided in Westford ever since.¹ She is the mother of three sons: Horace, Arthur, and Alden all born in that place. HORACE was born Oct. 29th, 1842, married Anastasia E. Hill, Sept. 8th, 1867, is the father of one son, Carey R., born June 17th, 1868, and now lives in Schenevus. ARTHUR, who was born Feb. 22d, 1847, also lives in that place. ALDEN was born Sept. 4, 1848, and now lives in Albany. Her husband died March 4th, 1857.

JOSIAH H. was born Feb. 6th, 1813, and married Adelia W. Babcock of Westford, Feb. 22d, 1837. By her he had two sons and two daughters: JAMES R., born in Westford, Dec. 1st, 1837; MARY J., born in Davenport, July 5th, 1841; MELVILLE, born in Albany, Nov. 16th, 1848, died April 23d, 1850; and MARIA ELIZABETH, born in Albany, Nov. 9th, 1852. He has had one grandson and one granddaughter, children of James R., both of whom died in infancy. In 1846, he removed to Albany where he has since resided. He received a divorce from his wife in 1858, and married Mrs. Ellen Avery of Albany for a second wife, Oct. 15th, 1861.

CAROLINE M. was born June 19th, 1815, and married Benjamin Westcott of Milford, Jan. 7th, 1846. She has had one daughter, LURETTA M., born at that place, Dec. 20th, 1847, who married Madison Hiltz of Richmondville, July 4th, 1867, and is the mother of one daughter, Hattie, born March 8th, 1868. She resided in Milford for a number of years and then removed to Westford where her husband died Dec. 17th, 1864. She now lives in Richmondville near the home of her daughter.

ADELIA S. was born Oct. 11th, 1817, and married Henry W. Wilson of Whitestown, April 13th, 1842,² and has since resided at that place. She has had two daughters and one son, all born in Whitestown where they now live. Their names and birthdays are as follows: HELEN J., May 24th, 1844, SARAH S., July 10th, 1846, and WILLIAM H. Feb. 5th, 1849.

¹ At the time of her marriage with Mr. Chester he had one son, Dwight, by his first wife Mary H. Chappel. Dwight was born in Maryland, March 2d, 1835, and married Mary J. Storrs of Worcester, Sept 7th, 1862, and is the father of two daughters Mary E., born in N. Y. city, April 14th, 1866, and Lizzie, born March 8th, 1868, and lived but six months. He now lives at Newton Centre, Mass., and is engaged in business in Boston.

² At the time of her marriage with Mr. Wilson he had by his first wife one son Milo, who now lives in Oshkosh, Wis.

FERNANDO P. was born Aug. 9th, 1819, and married Lucy A. Preston of Westford June 16th, 1846, and now resides at that place. He is the father of three daughters, born in Westford as follows: ELLA A., Aug. 7th, 1849; C. AMANDA, June 8th, 1854; and EMMA R., March 8th, 1858.

LYSANDER was born Oct. 2d, 1821, and married Rachel Ann Gurney, Oct. 11th, 1855, and has no children. For a number of years after his marriage he carried on the old homestead farm, but he sold it in 1867, and moved to Maryland the next year, where he now resides.

MARINDA was born Oct. 10th, 1823, and married Luther M. Robinson of Seward, Oct. 5th, 1853,¹ where she lived until 1871, when they removed to Cobleskill, where they now reside. She has had one son, WILLARD M., born in Seward, July 18th, 1859.

LUCY was born Aug. 12th, 1826, and died Aug. 14th, 1827.

MILTON was born June 24th, 1829, and married Jerusha C. Talcott of Williston, Vt., Oct. 19th, 1858. He removed to Illinois in 1865, and from thence to Goodland, Ind., in 1870, where he now resides. He has had three daughters, born in Westford, as follows: JENNIE M., Aug. 3d, 1859, MARY E. Feb. 23d, 1861, and CARRIE L. Feb. 6th, 1863. Carrie died, April 2d, 1864, and Mary E., or Minnie as she was called, died on the 10th, only eight days after.

MARIA was born Sept. 12th, 1832, and married John E. Moore, of Richmondville, Jan. 29th, 1865,² where she has since resided. She has had no children.

To take a review of the family, commencing with Sylvester and Sukey Draper, there has been, of births, eleven children, five male and six female; twenty-six grandchildren, ten male and sixteen female; and twelve great grandchildren, seven male and five female. Of deaths there has been one child, a female; six grandchildren, two male and four female; and four great grandchildren, two male and two female. This leaves now living of the lineal descendants of Sylvester Draper, ten children, five male and five female; twenty grandchildren, eight male, and twelve female; and eight great grandchildren, five male and three female, or in all thirty-eight living representatives of the family, eighteen male, and twenty female.

If, by any imperfections or omissions, we have not done the family justice in this sketch, we trust that all the members of it will do ample justice to themselves, their reputations, and their characters, by well ordered lives, and by deportments that shall give the highest concern to virtue, sobriety and morality.

¹ When she married Mr. Robinson he had two daughters and one son by his first wife, viz: Libbie, who married Josiah Kilts, Ann and Luther.

² When she married Mr. Moore he had one son and two daughters by his first wife — Oliver, Celia B. and Libbie.

THE CEREMONY.

The Rev. Mr. Gillette was invited to officiate at the marriage, and in performing the ceremony he recited, in his pleasant way, the following address in rhyme, which answered the purposes of the occasion, although not couched in the customary ritualistic language.

Twenty-five years of joy have sped,
Since so happily you were wed,
High upon yon paternal height,
Ne'er out of mind, if out of sight.

Then lived your happy parents all,
Now all are pale 'neath death's dark pall;
One sire *Draped* five girls and five boys,
What a lot for holiday toys!

Thanks to the Providence of God,
Not *one* of *them* sleeps 'neath the sod!
This joyous Silver wedding night
Reveals *ten* in its festive light.

The father of this Silver bride,
Had two sons toiling by his side;
And she had an only sister,
She died! Oh! how they miss'd her!

Two brothers with their children fair,
Are here this festive scene to share,
Not to omit their cherish'd brides
Who are always link'd by their sides.

You have call'd these witnesses now,
Who saw you take the nuptial vow,
Full five and twenty years ago,
To see renewed the wedding bow.

If other witnesses are here,
Who may have objections sincere,
Will you forever hold your peace,
Until their wedded life shall cease?

Now do you pledge in love and truth,
As in the days of joyous youth,
To faithful husband be and wife,
Through all the years of future life?

THE DRAPER SILVER WEDDING.

This honored pair both nod assent,
But I shall not be quite content,
Until forthcoming I shall see
The Silver for my "wedding fee."

The ceremony now is o'er,
Pray, who are these I stand before?
Three sisters musical and fair,
The children of the wedded pair!

ELLA, first of the cluster rare,
AMANDA next, not quite so spare,
EMMA third in the three-linked-chain,
Let no rude hand rend it in twain.

Here's a fair personal estate,
Eligible, if not too late,
Whose worth is advancing to lure
Those who apply with motives pure.

Now no stalwart sons do we see,
Wait awhile and there will be three—
Sons-in-law to increase the count
Who'll drink at love's holiest fount.

No busy match-maker am I,
I only consummate the tie,
It will be prosperous you'll see,
In the same ratio with the fee.

From the family we will pass,
To fields waving with corn and grass,
To the orchard with luscious fruit,
And bins groaning for man and brute.

To the houses with tenants fill'd
To the grists waiting to be mill'd
To the milk pans ready to skim,
To jars and cans fill'd to the brim.

We dare not say what's in the till,
The rev'nue man with iron quill,
Will press the interrogation,
Incident to his vocation.

Lo! the wardrobe! Do you stare?
Saying, "There is nothing to wear?"
No! the envious will look askance
At what rivals the taste of France.

The side-board will meet your wishes,
Glittering with silver dishes,
Reflecting in their silent glare,
More friendship than you are aware.

Here are gifts fresh from hearts of yore,
Which this *Home* revisited once more,
On this quarter-centennial time,
To strike in with the silver chime.

A home endeared by countless ties,
Type of one fairer in the skies,
Where are pleasures forever more,
And clust'ring joys forever soar.

The fount of joy will never cease,
Rills of life flow in endless peace,
There death will draw no parting tears,
Through all the never ending years.

'Tis a land on whose blissful shore,
Where those who meet shall part no more;
There rests no shadow, falls no stain,
And those long parted meet again.

A marriage supper will be there,
The King's son will the robes prepare,
He's the bridegroom, the Church's the bride,
Come to the feast, the room is wide.

In this I should have been more terse,
For each year I have made a verse,
My rude rhyming I here will end,
And subscribe myself your friend.

The "silver" for the "wedding fee" being a handsome cake basket, was then brought forth very unexpectedly to Mr. Gillette and presented to him on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Draper by Mr. E. C. Herdman of Westford in a few appropriate remarks, which were responded to very happily.

A table laden with every variety of rich and magnificent presents of silver ware was then brought to the centre of the parlor and uncovered by Mr. S. B. Draper of Albany and Mr. Lewis E. Preston of Westford, the oldest living representatives of the respective families.¹

Andrew S. Draper of Albany was called upon to make the presentation address and spoke as follows:

MR. A. S. DRAPER'S ADDRESS.

It is a common remark of those who are best acquainted with the peculiar habits of different nations, that we in America have too few public

¹ For letters accompanying some of the presents see appendix.

holidays. Perhaps this is true; but, to my mind, it may better be said that we have too few friendly re-unions. We are a fast, progressive people. As a class we slash, dash and tear through the world on the high pressure principle, regardless of the claims of society, thoughtless of all but self. I would not for a moment infer that as a people we are wanting in those finer sympathetic qualities which unite heart to heart, and soul to soul. Quite the reverse is true. But we go from our nearest relative, or our best friend only to find that time, together with the bustle and excitement of a busy world, will paralyze memory and deaden the affections. Is there any remedy for this? If there is, it lies in more frequent friendly gatherings. And what time more fitting for such a meeting than an anniversary like the present? We take down the massive family Bible, throw open the sacred covers, search for the record pages, and we find that that good book chooses to recognize, record, and dignify three events as the three *great* events of human life. These are the births, marriages and deaths. The anniversary of a person's birth never fails to be recognized in some manner no matter how trivial, while we ever hold as sacred the recurrence of the dates on which loved ones have passed from earth and their spirits flown to the spirit land. As a rule, marriage alone of the three great events of life receives no recognition either in thought or demonstration upon the return of its anniversary days. It is wrong that it should be so. The institution is one regulating all the private and public relations of life, and is as sacred in its associations as it is ancient in its origin. It continues society in a state of refinement; it guaranties enlightened national existence; it was one of the grandest elements of strength in the contest for the establishment of our National Independence, and it stands a silent guardian over our National liberties to-day. It was not a love of blood, nor gain, nor glory, that actuated our forefathers of the Revolution to *fight* in order to gain the summit of Bunker Hill or fortified them for that fearful winter at Valley Forge, but in modern political language, "there was a power behind the throne"; it was to defend their firesides, it was the love they bore their families, which passion was engrafted into their very being by the institution whose anniversary we to-night celebrate that enabled them to surmount every obstacle, to endure every privation, to brave every danger, to conquer the world's conquerors. Then I say it is highly fitting that we should recognize the return of an anniversary like this.

I like these family gatherings, these green spots in life's paths, these agencies which tighten up the cords that hold us together in social, sacred and sympathetic union. They take our minds away from the things of the present and future, back to the scenes of the past. They teach us our history, point us to our origin, and make us recognize our ancestral debt. By gathering the many historic incidents within the knowledge of those who are here assembled, we have been enabled to review the trials

and hardships of pioneer life in this section of country, and cannot fail to admire and reverence the toilsome application, the energetic heroism of parents and grandparents and great grandparents, by which they, and those like them, were enabled to convert the ancient wilderness of Tryon into the modern county of Otsego.

Then too, this event brings back to this happy couple, a memory of the first ceremony — twenty-five years ago ! When, I really believe life must have been more of a reality than it is to-day. Oh ! those must have been halcyon days. *Then*, it was not sharp practice, but a positive crime to put the largest berries on the top of the basket ; the reddest peaches on the top of the crate, or the roundest apples on the top of the barrel. *Then*, the iron horse was just traveling his first miles, and the great telegraphic system of our country, since become one of the necessities of civilization, was in its infancy. Then too, possibly this event leads this bride and groom to think of the fact that it was the day upon which they were first married, just twenty-five years ago to-day, that Pope Pius IX first took his seat cosily in the great pontifical chair of the Catholic church, and that the whole Catholic world was jubilant over the event. Yes, I say *perhaps* this event leads them to think of all this, but I *know* that it leads them still more forcibly to think of the time when the old family homesteads of Draper and Preston joined each other, and the cow-pastures were located at the connecting corners ; when flirtations were abominable things to be invented by a future generation, and when because of some unseen and mysterious agency, that long winding and rugged route over Draper hill was shorter, straighter, and leveler than it ever was before or ever has been since. Oh, that we had time to trace out and unfold these old interesting and pleasant memories. Yes, for a thousand reasons, this is an enjoyable occasion.

I am reminded that very short speeches are the order of the evening, and that I am placed here to perform a specific duty, but on an occasion of this character, the inducements to linger over the memories of the past are so great as to encroach upon moments which of right belong to the present.

From a rich personal experience I am able to testify that this house is always cheerful, but to-night the mingled voices of old and young have made it still more so, and the very atmosphere is itself enlivening. Relatives and friends have gathered here to set the twenty-fifth mile stone on the road of married life, to extend their congratulations over the happy prosperity of a quarter of a century, and to say earnestly to this family, "God speed your future." But this party is desirous of leaving here something more substantial than mere congratulations and well wishes. Hence this display. And now with all the professional ability which it is possible for me to muster do I convey the title of this silver from the possession of this company to the possession of this couple whose mar-

riage anniversary we to-night celebrate. (Addressing Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Draper). Value it not because of its worth counted in dollars and cents, but because of the many well wishes that accompany and that are inseparably linked to every piece. Use it; but when you use it, may it remind you of the many friends with warm hearts, who now gather around you and whose happiness is commensurate with yours. It is the desire of this company that this bright metal shall ever symbolize your future, and that its lustre shall never grow dim. May your life's paths be free from the thistles of sorrow and full of the roses of happiness. May earth yield you an abundant increase and Heaven bestow upon you, and your posterity, her richest blessings. And years hence, by natural laws, you and we must be separated upon earth, but may we pass beyond the Silver River and gather at that Golden Scene where they "neither marry nor are given in marriage."

ALDEN CHESTER'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Alden Chester of Albany, was now called upon to reply, and in behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Draper, spoke as follows in accepting the presents:

I have been requested by you and yours to make some reply to the remarks which have just been made.

Although it is generally no easy task to speak for others, yet upon this occasion I am most happy to fulfill the request which you have made, and in doing so I shall try to represent, to the best of my ability, the feelings which I know pervade your hearts. But as these are feelings which are beyond the power of human tongue to describe, and beyond the genius of the most eloquent and gifted to portray, much, on account of my own inability will have to be left unsaid, and in leaving it unsaid, I have but to remind these relatives and friends, that upon occasions like this, and in persons situated as you are at this moment, tongues that are most silent are most eloquent, and symbolical of hearts that are most thankful.

And first, I am directed to sincerely thank you, sir (addressing A. S. Draper), for the kind words in which you have conveyed these valuable presents to the recipients; for the happy and eloquent manner in which you have referred to the twenty-five years of wedded life through which they have passed; and for all your kind wishes in your own name and in the name of this company, for their future happiness and welfare.

Next, I am requested to thank the brothers and sisters, the nephews and nieces, the cousins, the relatives and friends, who are the givers of these beautiful and valuable gifts. And how shall I do it! Words are but weak, and gestures meaningless. I can but simply say — thank you, one and all, and God bless you — and when I say this, my words are echoed from the hearts of these recipients with a tenfold emphasis, and my thank you is there coupled with all the gratitude that can abide in

human hearts, and my God bless you, with all the sincerity that can centre in a prayer.

This costly and elegant silver ware is accepted in the same kind spirit in which it is given. It will ever be treasured in the family, and after its sight shall have cheered the declining years of this happy bride and groom for the last time, and they are summoned to that "house not made with hands," in which silver ware is not a necessary item of table furniture, and to which it cannot be taken, it will be handed down to children as cherished heirlooms. And I wish I could say that it would be handed down to children who will always bear the name of Draper, but as they have not, unfortunately, been blessed with any boys in this family, and as daughters are very liable, and generally very anxious to change their names, I cannot promise, as I wish I could, that these heirlooms will always remain in the Draper family, by name. But notwithstanding this, in whosoever hands they are, the name that is now connected with them will always remain, and their sight will forever call to mind this happy occasion and the names and memories of those who are the givers.

They are, indeed, tokens of a warm-hearted friendship and affection, but still these gifts, appreciated as they are and always will be, were not necessary to perpetuate this friendship, for that is something that is lasting and will endure to the latest breath of life. If we should place a bouquet of the choicest and most fragrant flowers which nature could produce, in this beautiful water pitcher, they would soon fade and lose their beauty and sweetness; and as flowers will fade, so will silver ware tarnish and lose its splendor, but friendship and affection, and I will use that stronger and better word — love — pure hearted, devoted love — can never change.

Time, who writes his autograph on the face, who gives wrinkles to the brow, furrows to the cheek, gray hairs to the head, and a tottering step to the foot, may in fact plant his impress upon this silver ware and cause it to tarnish, but it will not, and cannot tarnish that genuine love which exists between this couple and the various members of their great families; or will it obliterate that friendship which exists between them, and the friends of their families who have honored this occasion with their presence, and their *presents*.

Again I wish to thank you all, most sincerely, in the name of Mr. and Mrs. Draper (Uncle Fernando and Aunt Lucy), and convey to you all the strongest assurance of their love; and their hope that your pathways through life may be paved with silver; that every cloud which comes over you may have a silver lining; that you may all live to have crowns of silver hairs upon your heads; and then after having spent long and prosperous, and happy lives here, be permitted peacefully, joyfully, triumphantly, to leave the silver pathways of mortality and pass through

the golden gates of our Father's mansion, up to a blessed immortality; there to receive the greatest of gifts — the gift of God — and that gift, eternal life; and there also to dwell through a never ending eternity in the light of the silver rays which beam from the golden countenance of One who was Himself a Gift, and who is the personification of all friendship and all love.

At the conclusion of the addresses, Mr. and Mrs. Draper received the heartiest and most sincere congratulations of the entire company.

The bride was elegantly attired in white, and wore with becoming dignity the indispensable wreath of orange blossoms. It was the common remark of many who were present at her marriage that twenty-five years had left her almost as young in appearance as it found her. The groom was handsomely attired in an English evening dress suit. The toilets of the ladies were rich and elegant, and were unsurpassed in variety and exquisite taste. The guests numbered besides the relatives many of the best citizens of Westford.

When the exercises in the parlor were concluded the supper was served. It was prepared by Mrs. Draper, assisted only by her daughters and was in every respect a most excellent one. The tables were laid in lavish profusion, and will be long remembered by all who were so fortunate as to be of the company that surrounded them. During the progress of the supper the band discoursed some of their choicest music.

All the arrangements and appointments were liberal and elegant. Every detail had received the most careful attention and every preparation that could possibly add to the comfort and happiness of the invited guests had been tastefully made.

During the evening the atmosphere of the house was often stirred with the melodious strains of sweet music, rendered not only by the band, but by performances on the piano and organ by the Misses Draper and other accomplished musicians.

The celebration was a most gratifying success and thoroughly enjoyed by all, but by none better than by Mr. and Mrs. Draper who may well feel that their twenty-fifth wedding day was a mile stone on the road of their lives which is marked by a never-to-be-forgotten inscription.

APPENDIX.

LETTERS.

The following letters of regret were received from those unable to be present :

FROM MILTON DRAPER.

Goodland, Ind , June 12, 1871.

Mr. F. P. Draper,

Dear Brother : Your favor of the 6th inst., is received, as also your silver wedding cards for June 16th. We have thought about it almost constantly since receiving your invitation, and should be very glad indeed to be present, but business engagements and distance makes this impossible. We must forego the general pleasure of meeting so many of our old friends and the especial pleasure of seeing all the members of our family together once more. I know you will have a pleasant time, and one that will recall to you and yours very many interesting incidents that have occurred in the last twenty-five years.

May you live another quarter of a century and celebrate your golden wedding.

Mrs. Draper and Jennie send congratulations, and wish to be remembered on so happy an occasion.

With kindest wishes, I remain

Yours affectionately,

MILTON DRAPER.

FROM MRS. HENRY W. WILSON née ADELIA S. DRAPER.

Whitestown, N. Y., June 12, 1871.

Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Draper,

Dear Brother and Sister : We are in receipt of your kind invitation to be present upon the occasion of your silver wedding, but while we should accept with unspeakable pleasure, we are obliged to send regrets at not being able to be present.

Sickness in our family, with its attending cares, together with the crowded state of Mr. Wilson's business, render it impossible for us to meet with you and mingle with relatives and friends of former years.

As wedding tours are very customary, we should be pleased to have you make Whitestown a visit, that we may extend to you congratulations in person. Myself and the whole family wish to be remembered to all, and join in wishing you a happy time and prosperous future.

Sincerely yours,
ADELIA S. WILSON.

FROM DWIGHT CHESTER, ESQ.

Boston, Mass., June 10th, 1871.

Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Draper,

Dear Uncle and Aunt: Your invitation to be present on the occasion of your silver wedding has been received. Accept many thanks for the kind remembrance and sincere regrets that my business arrangements will not permit of my absence from Boston, on the 16th inst.

Many of your relatives and friends will gather around you on that happy anniversary, while others like myself, will be debarred that pleasure by causes beyond their control. But one and all, either personally or in thought will mingle their congratulations over the past, and their well wishes for the future.

I remain, very truly yours,
DWIGHT CHESTER.

FROM DR. AND MRS. J. M. NORTHROP, *accompanying a beautiful Butter Dish and Knife.*

Albany, N. Y., June 14, 1871.

Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Draper,

Dear Cousins: Accept our thanks for your kind invitation to attend the twenty-fifth anniversary of your wedding.

We have delayed writing until the present, hoping that we might be able to attend; but circumstances will deprive us of that pleasure. Accept our kindest wishes for your prosperity, and may your future happiness be continued to a ripe old age.

Please accept the light accompanying token.

We remain, very truly yours,
J. N. AND M. J. NORTHROP.

FROM MRS. J. C. MILLER.

Rochester, June 12, 1871.

Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Draper.

Dear Cousins: Your kind invitations to attend the twenty-fifth anniversary of your marriage has been received by us, and I assure you it

would give us the greatest pleasure to be with you on that occasion, were it possible.

We have long desired to make you a visit, and thereby renew our acquaintance, but my present health will prevent our doing so at this time.

Mr. Miller joins me in wishing you a happy time and many happy days in the future. With much love to all, I remain,

Affectionately yours,

MRS. J. C. MILLER.

FROM MISS HELEN J. WILSON.

Rome, N. Y., June 13, 1871.

Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Draper,

Dear Uncle and Aunt : We would all gladly be with you on this happy occasion, and participate in its festivities, and sincerely regret that circumstances will prevent our accepting your kind invitation.

Please accept our congratulations and love.

Affectionately, &c.,

HELEN J. WILSON.

FROM MRS. HENRY L. WELCH.

Hartford, Conn., June 10, 1871.

Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Draper,

My Dear Friends : Your kind invitation was duly and gratefully received, and I regret that circumstances make it impossible for us to acknowledge the same in person. Hoping that it will prove, as I have no doubt it will, a very pleasant silver wedding, and that you may live to enjoy the golden one.

I remain, truly yours,

JENNIE C. WELCH.

FROM MISS E. P. FRENCH.

Chatham, N. Y., June 12, 1871.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Draper,

My pleasant anticipations of being with you on the 16th inst, cannot be realized, and it is with exceeding regret that I find that it will be impossible for me to enjoy the festivities of that anniversary day. My thoughts will be with you, and I shall earnestly wish you a day of happy greetings and pleasant reunions. It is a beautiful picture to see a home after twenty-five years of wedded life where love's chain has been constantly growing stronger and brighter. Not a link is broken; your household treasures are all with you. There are many homes that have not a record like this.

You have my best wishes that your plans for this glad festal day may all be perfectly successful, and that June 16th, 1871 shall be a joyous day of your lives, and one that shall, with added years, bring delightful memories.

That the crowning happiness of your lives may be the hope of meeting all your loved children in the better Home above, is the earnest wish of

Your loving friend,

E. P. FRENCH.

FROM MRS. C. S. RIVENBURGH.

Ghent, N. Y., June 13, 1871.

Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Draper,

Dear Friends: Your kind invitation to attend the twenty-fifty anniversary of your wedding was duly received, for which you have many thanks.

Please accept my most sincere regrets that I cannot be with you at the appointed time.

With many wishes for a bright future,

I remain, very truly yours,

C. S. RIVENBURGH.

FROM PROF. S. N. COPLEY.

Bainbridge, N. Y., June 15, 1871.

Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Draper.

Esteemed Friends: I am in receipt of your kind invitation to attend the 25th anniversary of your marriage.

Nothing could afford me greater pleasure than to be able to accept it, but my professional engagements render it absolutely impossible.

Desiring to be remembered to my many friends who will be present, and wishing you all manner of happiness.

I continue, your friend,

S. N. COPLEY.

FROM THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MR. DRAPER, *accompanying a magnificent Silver Fruit Dish.*

Westford, N. Y., June 16th, 1871.

Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Draper,

Dear Brother and Sister: With our congratulations upon your happiness in entering the 26th year of your married life, please accept the ac-

companying token as a tangible pledge of an affection for you that shall never grow less.

Your Brothers and Sisters,

S. B. DRAPER,
MRS. SUSAN G. CHESTER,
JOSIAH H. DRAPER,
MRS. CAROLINE M. WESTCOTT,
MRS. ADELIA S. WILSON,
LYSANDER DRAPER,
MRS. MARINDA ROBINSON,
MILTON DRAPER,
MRS. MARIA MOORE.

FROM MRS. DRAPER'S BROTHER, *accompanying an elaborate Silver Cake Basket.*

Westford, N. Y., June 16th, 1871.

Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Draper,

Dear Brother and Sister: Twenty-five years ago a sister left us and became a wife. Happy years they have been. The "unrelenting hand of time" has dealt kindly with you, and your journey through married life has been almost cloudless. Your home has been embellished by the dearest of home treasures, and death has never intruded his presence there to rend your family circle.

To-day multitudes will gather at your home and rejoice with you in its happiness, but none will stand near you, with more heartfelt thankfulness for the many heavenly mercies that have been bestowed upon, than your own brothers.

Accept the accompanying gift as an evidence of an unending affection.

Your Brothers,

LEWIS E. PRESTON,
LEONARD F. PRESTON.

FROM "THE COUSINS," *accompanying a beautiful Silver Ice-Pitcher, Server and set of Goblets.*

Westford, N. Y., June 16th, 1871.

Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Draper.

We take pleasure in presenting you on the twenty-fifth anniversary of your wedding, the accompanying testimonials as a slight token of our esteem.

We beg that you will accept them, together with the assurance of our love and affection for you ; and with our kindest wishes that you may enjoy long, prosperous and happy lives.

With highest regards, we remain,

Sincerely and affectionately yours.

DWIGHT CHESTER,	ALDEN CHESTER,
MRS. OLIVE D. WALKER,	WILLIAM H. WILSON, .
MRS. ANN E. BRIGHTMYER,	MANLY U. PRESTON,
MISS PERLIA M. DRAPER,	MISS AMANDA M. PRESTON,
HORACE CHESTER,	MISS ELLA A. DRAPER,
MISS HELEN J. WILSON,	MISS MARY F. PRESTON,
ADELBERT H. PRESTON,	HARLAN P. DRAPER,
JULIUS E. PRESTON,	MISS MARIA E. DRAPER,
MISS SARAH S. WILSON,	MISS C. AMANDA DRAPER,
ARTHUR CHESTER,	MISS EMMA R. DRAPER,
MRS. LURETTA M. HILTS,	WILLARD M. ROBINSON,
ANDREW S. DRAPER,	MISS JENNIE M. DRAPER.

OTHER PRESENTS.

In addition to the presents already mentioned as being accompanied by letters, there were numerous others from various persons, not the least noticable of which, was a very costly silver tea set of very handsome design and finish, presented by the many friends of the family in Westford.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESS.

From the Republican and Democrat, Cooperstown, N. Y.

SILVER WEDDING OF MR. AND MRS. F. P. DRAPER.—Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Draper celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of their marriage on Friday evening, the 16th inst., at their residence in Westford, by the time-honored custom of a silver wedding.

The occasion was one of great interest, not only for the family but for their many warm friends and relatives in Westford and other places throughout the country, many of whom, coming from great distances, were present.

Not long after the assembling of the guests, they and Mr. Draper's people were happily surprised by a serenade from the Schenevus Valley Silver Cornet Band, which had driven up before the door. The band was invited in and numbered with the guests, and with them enjoyed the festivities of the evening.

The exercises of the evening were held in the east parlor, and were under the direction of Mr. Horace Chester of Schenevus. They were very touching and impressive, and were listened to by all with the utmost interest. After a prayer by the Rev. Charles Gillette, pastor of the Congregational church in Westford, essays were read, giving an extended account of the families from which Mr. and Mrs. Draper came, tracing their history from their earliest settlement in this county down to the present time.

Mrs. Draper was formerly Miss Lucy A. Preston, and the first essay, or the one giving an account of her family, was read by Mr. A. H. Preston. The next on the Draper Family, was read by Mr. Arthur Chester. The Rev. Mr. Gillette then gave an address in rhyme, during which the bride and groom of twenty-five years' standing were re united in the holy bonds of matrimony, and he received from them, after the ceremony, as a marriage fee, a very beautiful silver cake basket. Mr. S. B. Draper of Albany, and Mr. L. E. Preston of Westford, the oldest living representatives of the respective families, then brought to the centre of the parlor a large table loaded with every description of silverware, and uncovered it to the gaze of the thankful recipients. A. S. Draper, Esq., of Albany, was then called on, and mustering all the professional skill which he, as a lawyer, possessed, he conveyed the title of the costly and beautiful presents to Mr. and Mrs. Draper in a happy and elegant address of about a quarter of an hour in length. Alden Chester, Esq., of Albany, accepted the presents on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Draper, in a very feeling address of about

the same length, and returned their warmest thanks, accompanied by the strongest assurance of their love and their kindest wishes to all.

During the evening the happy couple were the recipients of the most hearty congratulations. The bride was neatly dressed in white, and her hair was beautifully decked with orange blossoms in all their native purity. The three beautiful daughters of the family, Miss Ella, Miss Amanda and Miss Emma, were very handsomely attired, and all of them being accomplished musicians, they enlivened the company many times during the evening with the choicest of performances on the piano and organ.

The wedding supper, or, on this occasion, the collation, for such it was, was one that baffles description.

Among the guests not members of the family were Col. and Mrs. M. J. Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Platner, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Tyler, and many others of their friends in Westford.

From the Freeman's Journal, Cooperstown, N. Y.

SILVER WEDDING OF MR. AND MRS. F. P. DRAPER, AT WESTFORD.—The usually quiet little village of Westford was all life and animation on Friday evening, June 16th, the occasion being the twenty-fifth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. F. P. Draper to Miss Lucy A. Preston. The relatives and friends to the number of a hundred gathered at the family residence and extended to the household their congratulations on the happy prosperity meted out to them during a quarter of a century of married life, and said an earnest God-speed for the future. The affair passed off to the entire satisfaction of all who were so fortunate as to be present. Perhaps never before has Otsego county been the scene of a more brilliant gathering on such an occasion; the toilets of the ladies were elegant, the music grand, the presents both numerous and costly, and everybody perfectly happy.

At 10 o'clock the festivities of the evening were ushered in by a prayer by the Rev. Charles Gillette; then came an essay by Mr. A. H. Preston, giving a history of the Preston family, followed by a similar historical essay on the Draper family, by Mr. Arthur Chester, of Schenectady. A poem written for the occasion and appropriate to it was read by the author, Rev. Charles Gillette; A. S. Draper, Esq., of Albany, followed and in a few well chosen words formally delivered the presents into the custody of the happy couple. This address was responded to in the names of Mr. and Mrs. Draper, by Alden Chester, Esq., of Albany. Then came the congratulations, after which all gathered at tables laden with a most sumptuous collation.

The Schenevus Silver Cornet Band was in attendance, and by their well disciplined musical efforts added life and pleasure to the assemblage. At a late hour the guests took their leave, saying all manner of pleasant things for the future of that happy family.

From the Valley News, Schenevus, N. Y.

SILVER WEDDING.—The 25th anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Draper's wedding day was celebrated at their residence in Westford, on the eve of the 16th. It was decidedly a pleasant and profitable affair from the beginning to the end. The invited guests began, about eight o'clock, to make their way toward the residence of the bride and groom; and about nine the house was nearly filled with warm friends and relatives. Early in the evening sweet strains of music were heard in the distance, and soon the Schenevus Cornet Band was in front of the door, to the happy surprise of all.

After the guests from afar and near had arrived, the exercises were opened with prayer by the Rev. Charles Gillette, after which Mr. Adelbert H. Preston read a history of the Preston family, commencing with the great-grandparents of the bride. Mr. Preston was followed by Mr. Arthur Chester, giving a like history of the Draper family. Then a spicy and interesting poem, prepared for the occasion, was read by Mr. Gillette. After this came the presentation of silver. Mr. E. C. Herdman, in behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Draper, first presented with a few words, to their pastor, Mr. Gillette, a beautiful cake-basket, when Mr. A. S. Draper, in an able and pleasant manner, in behalf of the friends and kindred, presented the beautiful tokens of friendship and good wishes to the happy pair and family. He alluded to the first real wedding when the "twain" was legally made "one flesh," to their happy and prosperous life, and expressed the wishes of all, that in the future their happiness might continue unabated.

After these remarks, Mr. Alden Chester in a cheerful way, yet with serious and impressive words, gave the reception speech. It was truly eloquent. He pictured a happy future to them, both for this life, and that which is to come, which may God grant, not only to this happy pair, but to him who uttered these words.

After congratulations to the bride and groom, the company fared sumptuously at a table prepared with great taste and order. The affair was indeed a joyous and festive one, and late at night, or rather early the next morning, the party dispersed, firm in the belief that "Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord."

From the correspondent's column of the Schenevus Monitor.

Westford, June 19, 1871.

Mr. Editor: A very pleasant affair came off in our quiet little village on the evening of the 16th. The occasion was that of the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Draper. About one hundred invited guests, old folks and young folks, were present, making a very fine and joyous party. Between the hours of seven and eight, the loud beat of the drum, and shrill but clear blast of the horn and bugle was heard in the distance, which denoted that the party was to be made more festive by the presence of the Schenevus Cornet Band. The fore part of the evening was spent in congratulating the bride and groom, and meeting of old friends.

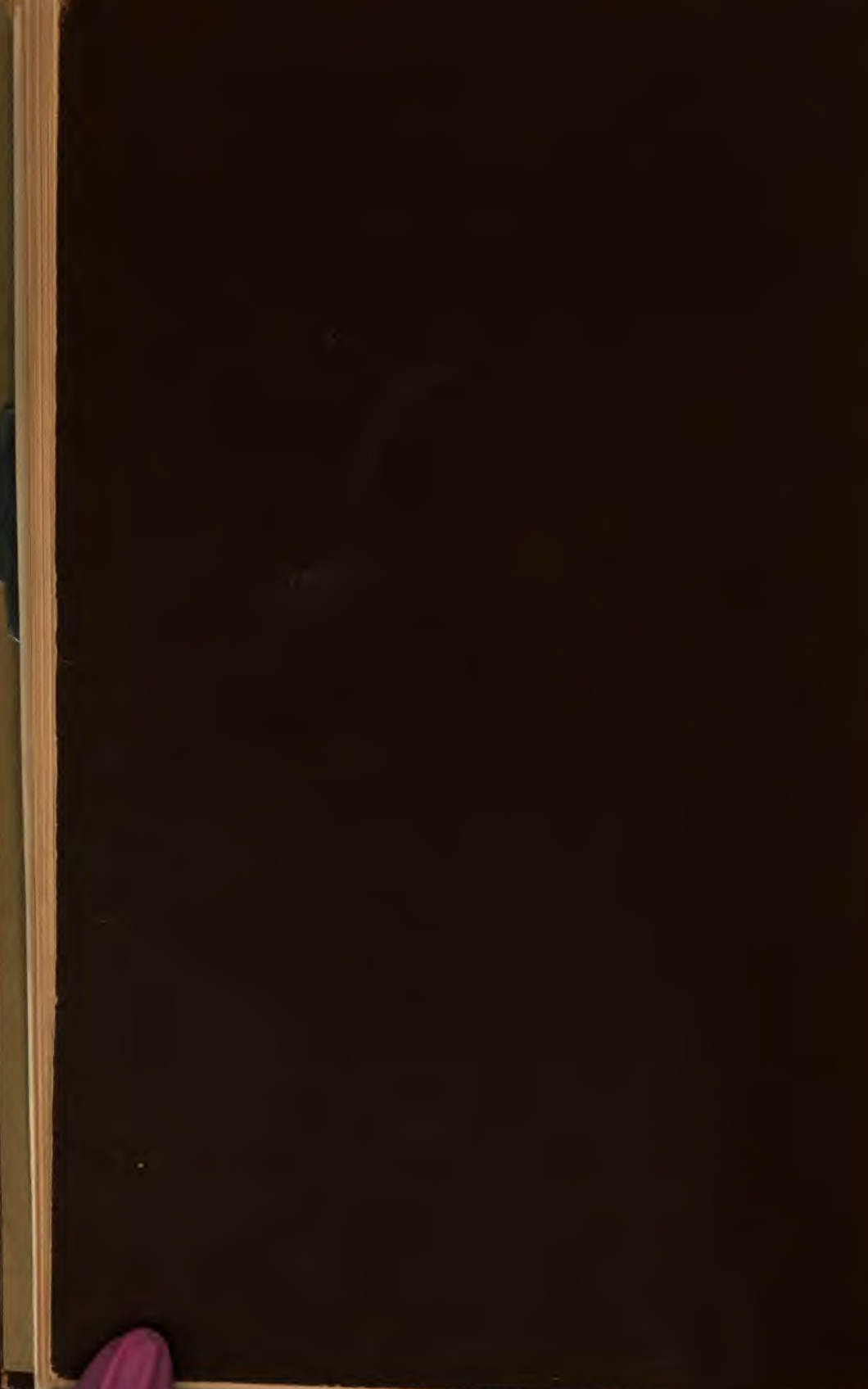
Then followed in order, the programme of the evening, under the direction of Mr. Horace Chester. First. Prayer by our beloved pastor, Rev. Charles Gillette; then a brief history of the Preston family, by Adelbert Preston; also a history of the Draper family by Arthur Chester; both doing credit to themselves, and to the occasion. Next in order was the presenting of an elegant silver cake basket to the pastor, Rev. Charles Gillette, in behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Draper, by our much esteemed friend E. C. Herdman, with a very few but appropriate remarks. After this, our reverend friend, in his good natured way, delivered a poem written for the occasion, in which he beautifully recalled the past, dwelt upon the present, and contemplated the future of their lives. Then followed the presentation of the elegant and costly collection of silver, on behalf of the relatives and friends of the happy couple, by Mr. Andrew S. Draper, of Albany, and in an eloquent manner he touched the hearts of all present, as he pictured the past with its joys and sorrows, dwelt for a moment on the feelings of the many friends and relatives who had traveled long distances to participate in this anniversary and bespoke for the generous hosts a bright and prosperous future. Mr. Alden Chester, of Albany, replied in behalf of the recipients and in his own pleasant and able maner returned the thanks of Mr. and Mrs. Draper, for the many kindnesses of the assembled company.

The tables were laden in a most bountiful manner and did great credit to the skill and ingenuity of the bride, who it is understood had superintended the entire arrangements in person. After enjoying a very agreeable time the large party dispersed and wended their way homeward, and very soon afterward the sun made his appearance over the summits of the eastern hills.— GUEST.

LIST OF GUESTS.

We append the following list of the persons present on the occasion:

Mr. and Mrs. S. B. DRAPER,	- - -	<i>Albany.</i>
Mrs. SUSAN G. CHESTER,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Mr. and Mrs. J. H. DRAPER,	- - -	<i>Albany.</i>
Mrs. CAROLINE M. WESTCOTT,	- - -	<i>Richmondville.</i>
Mr. and Mrs. L. DRAPER,	- - -	<i>Maryland.</i>
Mr. and Mrs. L. M. ROBINSON,	- - -	<i>Cobleskill.</i>
Mr. and Mrs. JOHN E. MOORE,	- - -	<i>Richmondville.</i>
Mr. and Mrs. LEWIS E. PRESTON,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Mr. and Mrs. LEONARD F. PRESTON,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
ANDREW S. DRAPER,	- - -	<i>Albany.</i>
Mr. and Mrs. HORACE CHESTER,	- - -	<i>Schenevus.</i>
ARTHUR CHESTER,	- - -	<i>Schenevus.</i>
ALDEN CHESTER,	- - -	<i>Albany.</i>
Miss M. E. DRAPER,	- - -	<i>Albany.</i>
ADELBERT H. PRESTON,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
MANLY U. PRESTON,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Miss AMANDA M. PRESTON,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
JULIUS E. PRESTON,	- - -	<i>Schenevus.</i>
Miss MARY PRESTON,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Mr. and Mrs. H. E. DRAPER,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Miss FANNIE DRAPER,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Miss ABBIE L. LYON,	- - -	<i>New Britain, Conn.</i>
Miss LINA THURBER,	- - -	<i>East Worcester.</i>
Mr. and Mrs. GEO. SKINNER,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Rev. and Mrs. CHARLES GILLETTE,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Mrs. Rev. LEMUEL CLARK,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Mr. and Mrs. JAMES C. HOLMES,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Col. and Mrs. M. J. HUBBARD,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. PLATNER,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. TYLER,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Mr. and Mrs. GARRETT ROSEBOOM,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Mrs. A. I. GRIGGS,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Mr. and Mrs. R. S. HALL,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Mr. and Mrs. E. R. TREAT,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Mr. and Mrs. J. K. TYLER,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Miss MARIA TIPPLE,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Mr. and Mrs. JOHN HULL,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>
Mr. and Mrs. JOHN K. HOLMES,	- - -	<i>Westford.</i>



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